In the lighted homes at evening, pressed against the window-glass are the little childish faces—I can see them as I pass, Little eager faces watching for a father's

coming feet. Ready for a rush of welcome when he en-

ters from the street;
And my heart grows sad with longing,
and my eyes with tears are wet.
Thinking of my own home-coming, and the
welcome others get.

Then I see the stars are shining—lights from mansions far above.

Where my little ones await me, in the home of perfect love:
And I think how they will greet me with their smiles and kisses sweet.

When my day of life is ended and they hear my coming feet.

Till my burden grows less heavy and my heart forgets to grieve.

As I thing of that home-going and the welcome I'll receive.

Gertrude Benedict Curtie, in Chicago Advance.



STNOPSIR Master Ardick, just reached his majority and thrown upon his own resources, after stating his case to one Houthwick, a shipmaster, is shipped as second mate on the Industry, bound for Havana. Mr. Tym, the supercargo, descries a sail. The strange vessel gives chase, but is disabled by the Industry's gous. In the fray Capt. Houthwick and one of the crew are killed, but the ladustry is found to be little damaged. Sellinger, first mate, takes charge and puts into Sidmouth to secure a new mate. Several days later, when well out to sea. an English merchantman is met, whose captain has a letter addressed to Jeremiah Hope, at Havana. The crew of the vessel tell strange tales of the buccaneer Morgan, who is salling under the king's commission to take Panama. One night a little later, the English vessel having proceeded on her course, a bit of paper is slipped into Ardick's hand by one of the sailors. This is found to be a warning of a mutiny plot headed by Pradey, the new mate. Ardick consults Mr. Tym. They resolve to secure the mate, but Pradey, eavesdropping in the cashi, makes through the dorr and arouses the crew. Capt. Sellinger joins Ardick and Tym. The crew break through the now barricaded door, but are forced to retire, having lost seven of their number. Finding themselves now too short-handed to manage the boat, Pradey decides to scuttle and desert the vessel, taking his men off in the only available boat. The captain, supercargo and second mate soon discover their plight, but hastilly constructing a raft bet away just before their vessel sinks. The next morning a Spaniard draws near them. The man in the rigging shouts: "If you would board us, take to your oars. Be speedy, or you will fall short." On board they are sent forward with thecrew, being tool dray will be sold as siaves on reaching Panama. The ship's cook they find to be Mac Ivrach plan to escape to the buccaneer on a rude raft. Sellinger, the list to attempt to leave the Spaniard, is disabled. Just after the others out off they see a figure dangling leave the building when Capt. Towland comes to claim the dona as his prize, under the buccaneeers' rule. Mr. Tym parleys to gain time for the flight of his party, then allows the men to enter. Seeking shortly to join the don, they come upon his dead body. They find also his wife has been slain and the young dona taken prisoner to the castle, and immediately conceive a bold plan for her rescue. They soon discover her exact whereabouts, and amid the carousals of the men, manage to again free her and excape he a small boat. The third day out a sail is spled which they raise rapidly, their craft having little speed, but the wind soon falls both vessels, and a small boat is put out from the stranger. This comes with is armed men, among whom is Towland. A hand-to-hand conflict ensues, and Mr. Tym is wounded in the neck. In the end the hostile force is completely worsted, none escaping. Tym's wound is found not serious; Sellinger has also been slightly wounded. Coming now out of their sorest straits, they learn from Dona Carmen her nearest relative is an unde, a Jeremiah Hope, of Hayana. Sellinger recalls he has a letter for this gentleman, so decides to sail for that place. Not long afterward they come across a West indian vessel bound for Panama. On board all along wanted to endounter. Learning of the fate of Panama, the course of the vessel is turned for Valparaiso. One night and he tells her of his love for her and is not rejected, but the consent of her uncle proceeds to ask.

## CHAPTER XXII.-CONTINUED.

I was not surprised that Mr. Hope's feet came down from the chain, and that he stiffened up and looked at me with a clouded countenance. I faced him steadfastly.

"This is a sort of business I was not expecting," he said, in a cold and yet well-mastered voice. "May I ask if you have considered all that goes with your

proposition?"
"As what, sir?" said I, apprehending well enough what he meant, yet wishing to draw him out.

"I had thought better of your understanding," he said, speaking now with the harshness he had concealed before. "What should I mean but the proof of your fitness for the match? In a word, what fortune have you, and what are your other qualifications that I should consider you?"

"That." I said, never flinching, "I can as yet return but an indifferent auswer to. I mean from what I conceive is your standpoint. My personal character, I may say, is all you can ask but again finding the place empty, for. As for fortune, I have none, and no better than fair prospects. I mean to follow the seq. at least, for a time, and trust by and by to come to the command of a ship, the which should not be such a poor attainment. My father was a sailor," I went on, "and anxiety. rose to be a master and owned three parts of his ship. I trust with so-briety and diligence to do as much."

He puffed out his lips, somewhat in Mr. Tym's fashion, and squared about to his former posture. I thought my undauntedness and straightforwardness had at least shaken him.

He finally answered, his voice at least lowered from the first high pitch: "But, granting this, what then? At best your plan requires considerable

time "That I admit," I said, reluctantly. "It could not well be compassed under

a few years." "And meanwhile my niece might lose a desirable match. Come, I would not be unreasonable. You seem a likely enough fellow, and all I have heard of you commends you, yet notwithstanding I cannot now concede what you wish. Go on and schieve the things speak of, if you can, and then we will see what is to be said. Further than this I will not promise. Indeed, I have gone beyond my first intent in yielding so much. But it must be un-derstood that there is to be no more love-making. I shall have my eyes open-which it seems hitherto I have not, or have been overpassed-and all infringement I shall meet by strict measures. Now you have my answer, which I have meant should be to the point, as is my custom."

He ended with a little more severity than he had begun, yet not harshly, and seemed to await my answer.

In good sooth, I could not find much fault. He had not given me the sort of reply I could have wished, to be sure, and I did not go to the length of finding much encouragement in his generalities; yet, on the other hand, he had not flatly refused me, and he had not treated my suit with contempt. I perceived that it stood me in hand to meet him in the prompt and frank fashion he seemed to look for, and hence I nodded in a satisfied way and answered:

"I can ask nothing more. I am aware that the greatness of what I seek is beyond my deserts. Let it stand as it is, then. You do not positively refuse me, and I have my own success to work out. I am beholden to you, sir, for your consideration."

"Why, you are welcome," he answered, quite genially. "And, Master Ardick," he went on, as I rose and made to go, "I would say that I wish to stand your friend. I have very keenly in mind the obligation you have placed me under-you and your companions. I trust at no distant day to be able to repay some small share of the debt."

"I thank you in turn," I said, rather coldly, "but in the present hospitality you repay all that I, at least, can accept. I wish you good-night.

And with a well-managed bit of loftiness (albeit my heart was heavy) I turned and stalked over to the companion.

"Master Ardick!" he called after me to my surprise.
"Aye, sir," I responded, wheeling in-

stantly, my pulse suddenly quickened. "Mentioning your companions suggests another matter. Do you recall that I once asked you whence they hailed?"

"I do," I answered, considerably disappointed. I had expected something to another purpose.

"And you said that Mr. Tym and the captain were from Southampton and Mac Ivrach from Glasgow? I am asking merely to be sure I understood you.

"You are a little astray." I answered, my silly irritation passing; "only the eaptain is from Southampton. Mr. Tym, though he has of late lived in London-that is, when not at seawas born and reared in some town in Sussex.

"Is it so?" he said, with a little surprise. "Then I misapprehended you. That alters the case. I must see Mr. Tym. I will explain to you that the business concerns the letter that Capt. Sellinger brought. This letter was from a dear friend of mine, now dead, and is of very much importance. It was written in New York, where my friend lived, and came to me in the strange and roundabout way you know of. Among other things, I must now get upon the track of a certain family of Sussex. If you are about to go below, will you not ask Mr. Tym to step up hither?"

"Certainly," I answered, and with a slight distraction from my own matters for the moment, I wished him good night and left the deck.

CHAPTER XXIII. OF THE DETERMINATION OF THE WHOLE MATTER.

But once dived down into the quiet (none of the passengers were in sight), the concern and trouble of the old matter returned. The prospect came back, dubious and uncertain, and the pride which had sustained me so well till now incontinently left me. I made forward with heavy feet, and only pulled myself tegether at the door of the berth, where I took thought that Mr. Tym might notice I entered and found him up and already about to go on deck, and de-livered Mr. Hope's message. He pe-plied: "Very well," and after finding that I was not for going back, passed

shod stairs. I might now momentarily see my love, which I was bound to do, and tell her how matters had gone, and, besides-well, I hoped for a fleeting em-brace. Most likely it would be our

out, and I heard him ascend the brass

first and last. I slipped out into the main cabin accordingly, running my eye about under the dim, grease-amelling lamps, and stole along to the senorita's door

At my first light knock she opened She was habited as she left the deck, even to the mantilla. Her face was pale, and her eyes seemed big and bright, showing the strain of her

"He makes little of me, yet he has not absolutely refused me," I hastily you mean to keep them or sell them?" whispered.

tingeing instantly with color and determination as to the other prop-clasping her hands. "He did not de- erty," he answered. "But it may be l

spise you?"
"Nay," I answered, trembling with love and tenderness, "not so bad as I could not find it in my heart to

disclose the doubts and dubiousness that were oppressing me. "But yet you speak heavily," she said, looking at me more narrowly, "and there is that in your air- What

were his words, Carlos?" "That he bids me rise to a station in life fit to sue for you," I was now pressed to answer; "but even then promises nothing. In short, he treated me with civility, and perhaps beyond my deserts, but has left me with near as many doubts as I had at first. And

"Poor Carlos!" she gently broke in and to my infinite delight she laid her hand gently against my check. "I perceive how it is. He has played the shrewd merchant with you, and has dealt with you in a fashion to avoid offense, yet to afford little hope. But be not discouraged, for if he did not come out with harshness against you he is not offended with you, and that I am sure is much. I am now better heartened than I have been at any time before, and believe that all will yet come out in triumph for us."

"Dear heart," said I, with a shaking roice, and, unable to utter any more words, I clapped the caressing hand to my lips and with another motion drew her unresisting to my breast.

God wot never was a purer woman but she was no prude, and the generous blood of Spain flowed in her veins She slipped her arms about my neck and put her lips to mine, and let me draw her loving weight to me, and so we clung for a single moment.

The shortest moment in my life. Feet began to clatter down the companion stairs, and with one swift, ten-der kiss and "I am yours, Carlos, or if not, then the veil! The Holy One keep you!" she was inside and the door closed, and I was speeding to my

I reached the door just as the person coming down fetched into the range of the lamps. To my relief, it was Mr. Tym. Nevertheless, I had never seen him when he was less welcome.

"Is't you, Ardick?" he asked, as I paused by the door. "Why, yes, now I see it is. Come in, for I have a thing to tell you." I felt little curiosity, for the greater

matter moved me, but I passed after him into the berth. "Well, Ardick," he began, "to save

you guessing, I will go straight to the bowels of the matter. I have fallen heir to a great fortune."

Distraught as I was and full of the other affair, this, nevertheless, gave



me a start. Recollecting myself and how I ought to behave toward one who had deserved so well of me, I caught

his hand and shook it heartfly.
"I congratulate you, with all my soul," I cried. "No man in the world deserves the luck better!"

"Avast! you over-exalt me," he laughed. "But it is the strangest thing in the world. To come to the point, then, it is Torrycorn's letter which has brought so much to pass. First, a certain cousin, that I never saw, died, and left me his entire great possessions. He did it out of regard for my mother, it seems, whom he greatly loved. While dying he wrote a letter to Mr. Hope, his dear friend and business agent, begging that he be executor of the will, and sent the letter to a sea captain, who was soon to sail for Havana. By mistake the letter went to Capt. Torrycorn, and soon after Mr. Hope himself sailed for Panama. Having considerable busi-ness on the way he was deterred from the first plan of his voyage, and reached this point later than he had expected. Yet still he did arrive in precise season to meet us, to receive his letter, and to find at his very elbow the man the letter concerned. Shall you find the match of all this for strangeness and the very whim of for-

tune? "Indeed," said I, much surprised, "it passes all that I ever heard of. But what is the amount of the fortune?"

"It is set forth in the letter to be ninety thousand pounds sterling, but may fall something short," he answered. "It is mainly invested in lands about New York and in ships. It was in the business of the last that my cousin made his fortune. I mean in the plantation trade. It is a bit strange that I never heard of him, but then his ships plied mostly between our easterly ports and New York, and I had no great knowledge of matters in those parts."

But here something gave me a little start. "Ships, then," said I, "will out severely punished for having five wives a considerable figure with you. Do Bachelor-What! You don't mean to ou mean to keep them or sell them?" say that he was compelled to live with "That I can answer better when I all of 'em?—Yonkers Statesman.

"Oh, then there is hopel" she cried, see them, and likewise come to some erty," he answered. "But it may be l apprehend you. You would like to bespeak a berth?"
"It seems hasty and eager to men-

tion it," I replied, a little in depreca-tion, "but the fact is-" "Say no more," he cried, clapping me on the back. "Can you doubt

Why, man, you shall be second mate of my best ship. After that mate, and then captain. Why not? And your pay shall start with a round sum, and I not cheated, either, for you are worth it. Sellinger at first shall be your superior-for I have him also in mind, to advance his fortunes-and I think you could not ask for a better."

"God bless you!" I cried. "This is more than you think!"

In spite of me the tears came into

my eyes. Why, Ardick, man, you have some thing behind the lighter!" he said, looking at me sharply. "Nay, out with it and relieve your mind. I much doubt if you will find more sympathetic ears."

"That I know," I said, with a sob, "but, indeed, I am but a poor creature. I think I have lost the little courage I had. Yet here is the matter, since you are foolish enough to consent to hear it." And with no words spared and many flounderings and pullings up I disclosed my secret.

"And so," he said with an odd kind of precision, "that is the thing behind the lighter? A stirring enough little matter, too, but not calling for much

dwelling on."
"Sir!" I cried, reproachfully.

"Nay, but hear me," he said, waving his hand. "Eight-and-twenty years ago I was young and was in love. I thought as you did, and was intoxicated in the same fashion. I married after s time."

I was silent. I thought I knew what he was about to say. His marriage

had proved unhappy. "In two years my wife died,"he went on, his voice dropping and sobering. Those two years were happier than all the time before or since. When it came to the last I asked Margaret to thank God for me that He had given me the sweet loan of her. I promised that I would strive to join her some day, notwithstanding my many imperfections, which still I mean to do, yet in chief through the merits of Christ, blessed be His name! for He must make up my lack. And now to your matter, which you must think I have strayed from. Having been in this way happy myself. I conceive it a good and sweet thing if I might make you do likewise, and this I believe I can do I have now neither kith nor kinpoor George Benther was surely the last, as I thought another was before him-and it will be fitting if I name an

heir. Why not you, Ardick, whom in truth I love? I will adopt you, and so at last I shall have a son. And now do you think your matter worth much dwelling on, for have we not found a way to mend it? I trow my heir and the agent of my ships, with good ventures of his own and what not, may aspire to this young woman's hand' If not, let me know, and we will see whether the house of Reginald Tym

has forgotten how to uphold its hon-or by the sword!" Long before the end of this epilogue which indeed the man spoke with the water standing in his eyes, I had seized his hand and with trembling lips had

kissed it. He broke off with this, standing up and clapping on his hat.

"Yet wait a little, for, after all, the business is not quite concluded. I would see Mr. Hope."

He retreated out of the berth, and with feelings which you may guess, but which I cannot hope to put into words, I dropped down on the side of the bunk and awaited his return. He was gone above 20 minutes. When be came in he made a grave bow and

pointed to my hat. & laughingly and yet in a great trem ble clapped it on, which done, he took my arm and led me out and up the

companion stairs, Near the top he only said:

"The lady is on deck. Why there I cannot say, unless it might be to greet a certain person. But in any event she is in my way. I wish to have a further talk with her uncle. Therefore you will oblige me by conducting her one side, and I recommend the after part of the quarter-deck, on the larboard side, which is in shadow."
THE END.

Bismarck's Experience.

Bismarck was one day in company where among other things the subject of how much it cost to gain experience in life cropped up. He kept silent for a time, but presently joined in the conversation and said: "Fools pretend that you can only gain experience at your own expense, but I have always managed to learn at the expense of others."—Detroit Free Press.

Merely Preliminary. "Well, Louise, where's your new hat?"

"I haven't any new hat."
"Why, you said you were going downtown to-day to get a new hat."

"Arthur, you never hear anything straight; I said I was going downtown to-day to look at new hats."-Chicago Daily Record. Time He Was Buried.

"Please, sir," said the energetic office boy to the active member of the firm "I wants ter get off this afternoon. Me grandfather's dead."

"Is that so, James? When did he die ?" "About five years ago, sir."-N. Y

The Height of Cruelty. Benedict-A man out west has been Bachelor-What! You don't mean to RAILROAD TIME TABLES. BIG FOUR.

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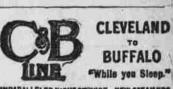
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